

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 19572 151808Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 HEW-04 MED-02  
PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /034 W  
----- 013851 /11

R 151527Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2113  
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 19572

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT SWEL UR  
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC IN SOVIET CENTRAL ASIA

1. EMBOFF, VISITING TADZHIKISTAN AND UZBEKISTAN DEC 5-14, OBSERVED SEVERAL INDICATIONS OF OFFICIAL CONCERN OVER "FLU" ("GRIPP" IN RUSSIAN). THE RESTAURANT STAFF BUKHARA'S LARGEST HOTEL WERE ALL ISSUED FACE MASKS. THEY SAID THAT SINCE MANY OF THEM HAD HAD FLU, AND BECAUSE IT WAS THE TIME OF YEAR WHEN SUCH THINGS HAPPEN, THEY HAD BEEN ISSUED THE MASKS. THE STAFF WORE THEM OSTENTATIOUSLY FOR ONE DAY AND THEN TENDED TO STOP WEARING THEM. THE COOKS IN SEVERAL TEAHOUSES AND STOLOVAYAS AROUND THE BUKHARA FARMERS' MARKET WERE ALSO OBSERVED WEARING MASKS. SEVERAL PHARMACIES IN DUSHANBE HAD POSTERS ON THEIR DOORS STATING THAT THERE WAS A GREATLY INCREASED INCIDENCE OF FLU AND GIVING A SERIES OF PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN TO AVOID CONTRACTING OR SPREADING THE DISEASE. THESE INCLUDED EATING WELL, STAYING OUT OF DOORS A GOOD DEAL, KEEPING ONE'S FEET DRY, COVERING ONE'S FACE WHEN COUGHING, AND AVOIDING CONTACT WITH INFECTED PEOPLE. MASKS SHOULD BE WORN IN CASE OF EXPOSURE TO FLU. THEY SHOULD BE WASHED AND IRONED DAILY.

2. CONVERSATIONS WITH RESIDENTS OF THESE TWO CITIES CONFIRMED THAT THERE WAS A GREATER INCIDENCE OF FLU THAN USUAL THIS WINTER. NONE OF THOSE ASKED SAID THAT THE PROBLEM WAS ANYTHING OTHER THAN FLU, I.E. THAT IT WAS NOT A CHOLERA EPIDEMIC. EMBOFF ASKED  
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SEVERAL BUKHARANS ABOUT THE LARGE NUMBER OF POSTERS

EXHORTING PEOPLE TO WASH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES PROPERLY,  
AND WAS TOLD THAT THESE HAD BEEN UP FOR SEVERAL MONTHS.  
MATLOCK

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, PROVINCE, EPIDEMICS, PUBLIC HEALTH, COMMUNICABLE DISEASES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 DEC 1976  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Film Number:** D760462-0882  
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